

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

## FRANCE.

It is stated on authority that, before the end of the present year, the French army in Turkey, under Marshal de St. Arnaud, will number at least 150,000 men, and that it is supposed that the English contingent will be increased to 50,000.

An imperial decree calls into active service on land and about 80,000 men from the 140,000 of the class of 1853. It has been stated that the French Eastern contingent will be increased to 100,000 men, and that a camp will be established at Boulogne, with a view to an expedition to the Baltic, if required.

**THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH AND THE POOR.**—A Paris correspondent says:—"The Emperor is always striving to ameliorate the condition of the lower orders. Hitherto the dead poor have been carried away, without even maimed rites or the bringing home of bell and burial. However, last year, the Emperor caused two chaplains to be attached to each of the three cemeteries, for the express purpose of reciting the prayers of the Church over the bodies of the poor; and instead of having the bodies placed one on the other, his Majesty directed that they should be placed side by side, and separated by earth. In addition to this, the Municipal Council of Paris has just decided that the bodies of persons not claimed by their families, of soldiers of the garrison, and of those taken to the Morgue, which have heretofore only been placed in packing cloth, shall henceforth be put in coffins, and that the chaplains shall be charged once a day to recite prayers over them also, though they are buried in an entirely separate part of the cemeteries."

## GERMAN POWERS.

The position of Austria and Prussia seems to be at last tolerably well-defined. By the Vienna protocol of 9th ult. the Four Powers unite in affirming the independence of the Ottoman empire, demanding the evacuation of the Principalities, and protecting the Christian subjects of the Porte; and each Power binds itself not to enter into arrangements with the Czar under any circumstances, without a previous general conference. Independent of this basis, there exists a treaty between England and France of the 10th of April; and between Austria and Prussia of the 20th. The Anglo-French Convention, not only binds the Western Powers to rescue the territory of Abdul-Medjid, but pledges them to "secure Europe against the return of the deplorable complications which have disturbed the general peace." As far as the terms of the Austro-Prussian treaty have been ascertained, they present no condition but what had been already contained in the general note of the 9th. So that while England and France pledge themselves to secure the peace of Europe by guarantees not existing before the war—the German powers may declare themselves satisfied if the Russians re-cross the Pruth. This amiable arrangement, however, is likely to be seriously modified by the chances and necessities of the war; and perhaps Austria will have abandoned her neutrality ere a shot has been fired.—*Nation*.

## AUSTRIA.

**THE EMPEROR'S MARRIAGE.**—On the 23rd ult. the Princess Elizabeth was conducted in state, as the Emperor's affianced bride, from the Theresianum, in the suburb Wieden, to the Imperial Palace in the city.

It is almost unnecessary to say that the bride was everywhere enthusiastically received.

Several recent measures of the government have shown that a more conciliatory internal policy is about to be pursued, and the Emperor has displayed his desire to be on better terms with his Hungarian subjects. When the deputies were presented to the Emperor they found her in the national costume. The Emperor addressed them in Hungarian, with the words "Here you see your Queen, whom I shall soon take to visit her subjects in Hungary." The Hungarians are a most impressive race, and the word "Queen" produced a singular effect upon the whole deputation.

## RUSSIA.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* of the 23rd ult. contains a proclamation from the Emperor to his people, in which he represents the war against England and France as one undertaken in defence of the Orthodox Faith.

England and France, he says, have thrown off the mask and revealed their real object, which is to weaken Russia and to deprive her of her powerful position in Europe.

Russia will fight for the Christian faith, in defence of her co-religionists, oppressed by their merciless enemies.

## THE BALTIC FLEET.

The smallpox has made its appearance on board the fleet. The *Chronicle's* correspondent writes, that the ravages of the smallpox appears to be confined to the James Watt, which lost a great many men. Several English ships of war had their crews vaccinated.

Russian fleet reported to have sailed from Helsingford, May 5th, when Admiral Napier signalled the Allied fleets to prepare for sea immediately.

A Berlin despatch, dated Monday, April 24th, states that, according to news from St. Petersburg, great preparations were making there for the defence of the capital in case of an attack, which seems much dreaded. The imperial family will retire to Petershof.

## THE SEAT OF WAR.

The cruel manner in which the war was carried on in the Dobrudscha is told in a letter in the German *Wochenchrift*, dated April 17:—

"The Russian soldiers gave no quarter; they put to the sword every man they made prisoner at Mat-

shin and Hirsowa, in the entrenchments of Tzernavodo and Karussa. We need not wonder, then, at the Turks, especially the Egyptians, when they fight on to the last, and die sword in hand, though overwhelmed by numbers." The writer then gives further details respecting the dead and wounded lying unburied, but stripped, on the wild plain of the Dobrudscha, where vultures are feasting and pestilence commencing.

The Russians have experienced a considerable check at Chernavoda, and have just evacuated Lesser Wallachia.

"Omar Pasha advanced with 70,000 men towards the Dobrudscha, on the 18th or 19th ult., and a battle took place with the corps of General Luders, between Silistria and Rassova. During the night Omar Pasha had dispatched a division in the direction of the Black Sea, and when the battle was at its height the next day, this corps attacked the Russians in their rear, causing unexampled confusion and consternation. Gen. Luders retreated towards Tschernavoda, and it is said that the Russians lost many guns, ammunition stores, baggage waggons, and even their military chest.

On the 20th a Turkish flying corps crossed the Danube below Silistria, in order to destroy the Russian strand batteries. They advanced to Kalasch, where there was hard fighting for some hours. The Turks fought like lions, but being terribly overmatched were ultimately forced to retreat.

SEMLIN, APRIL 28.—The Turks advanced into Little Wallachia, and were received with the greatest enthusiasm. The Russians were making tremendous preparations for a regular attack on Silistria.

Letters from Constantinople of the 13th state that Kossuth and Mazzini were expected at Constantinople, and that Reschid Pasha had declared he would not allow them to set foot on Turkish territory.

The English government have sent despatches to Constantinople advising the establishment of a Polish legion in Turkey to operate against the Czar.

The Governor of Gallipoli, a quiet old Turk, is dead, fairly worried to death by the French auxiliaries. The exact and organizing intellect of the Gallie race has already made a revolution in the place. Before the troops had been there three days they had named the streets, numbered the houses, and established a police. The quiet routine of the good Bey's life was broken through; he was incessantly assailed by generals and colonels, and was held responsible for all that was done or left undone within his jurisdiction. He took to his bed, and has not survived to see the changes which threaten his native country.

## GREEK INSURRECTION.

Despatches from Vienna state that the insurgents have been defeated in Janina and Prevesa, with a loss of 100 killed and 120 prisoners, four guns, and sixty barrels of powder. Grivas has been defeated at Metzova, and has fled to Thessaly with sixteen men.

The circular of Count Nesselrode has produced on the minds of the Greeks the effect that might have been anticipated. The religious fanaticism is roused in all its force, and their dream now is the overthrow of the Ottoman Empire with the aid of that Power to which they are devoted body and soul. Such is the gratitude of the Greeks to the Western Powers, who procured for them their independence, and who wished to make of the petty kingdom of Greece a rampart against the Muscovite power. The governments of England and France will learn when too late how deceived they have been in the Greek character, and how, in forming a Greek kingdom, they were only working for the advantage of Russia, to whom they have given auxiliaries in the realization of her ambitious projects.

## AUSTRALIA.

**THE GOLD FIELDS.**—By the latest advices, it appears that the intelligence from the gold fields is a shade more favorable. The diggers were returning to work after a somewhat prolonged indulgence in the festivities of Christmas; and the quantity of gold brought down by the last escort shows a slight increase.

The *Law Times* warns professional gentlemen not to flock to Australia. The many barristers and attorneys who have recently emigrated have been grievously disappointed; there is little legal business to transact, and great competition for the practice;—numbers of the profession have been obliged to earn a livelihood by turning day laborers or even menial servants.

## STRENGTH OF RUSSIA IN THE BALTIC.

The Gulf of Finland, which is the high road to St. Petersburg, is protected, in the first instance, by a group of islands which bear the name of the largest—Åland. This granite Archipelago encloses a perfect labyrinth of straits and bays studded with minor islands, and so fringed with reefs and banks as to make the navigation often impossible—always hazardous. At the very entrance the navigation is difficult, and our fleet shall have to trust for its guidance to the activity of our own surveyors, as it is incredible that the Russian Government will maintain the existing lights and beacons for the use of a hostile fleet. Almost exactly opposite, and only a few hours' steam from the entrance of the Gulf are the fortresses of Sveaborg on the north, and Revel on the south. The entrance to Helsingfors Bay lies between Langen and Vester Svart. It is about 200 yards wide, and a vessel daring enough to attempt the passage is exposed to the fire of two islands, while she will be in danger of being raked by the guns of another island which lies behind them. It is the union of natural and artificial fortifications which has given Sveaborg the name of the Gibraltar of the North; and the navigation is critical and dangerous and the works and batteries—presenting a successive front of a mile in length—are absolutely portentous. Not can Sir Chas. Napier resist the temptation of attacking a fort which contains, at the present moment, eight sail of the line, a frigate, corvette, and three steamers of the Russian

Baltic fleet? The boasted impregnability of Revel may be regarded as a gratuitous assumption, and it remains to be seen whether, if Sveaborg is secured by art and nature, the fleets could not fire their earliest shots in the neighborhood of St. Petersburg itself?—From the two points we have just mentioned the Gulf widens until it is once more contracted to a very narrow channel, at the east end of which are St. Petersburg, and the estuary of the Neva. The boasted fortress of Cronstadt is the bulwark of the modern capital, and the question is how it is to be approached.—Two ways only are open to the adventurous mariner. Either he may round Cronstadt to the north, and steer between the island and the Finnish shores, or he may round it to the south, between the island and the Ingman shore. The northern channel, however, is impracticable. It is filled with rows of piles, five or six miles in length, which, with blocks of stone and other materials, form a barrier impassable to any but small craft. The southern channel is also sufficiently difficult. Whatever is done must be done in the presence of forts bristling with guns in channels whose width can be measured by a few yards. Still, the Russian faith in the impregnability of Cronstadt is wavering. Already the Emperor has thought it prudent to look to the "street" as well as to the "lock of the street door," and has actually planned a mortar battery for the defence of the palace of Peterhoff, which could only be necessary in case of a successful attack upon Cronstadt. After such a fashion is the Northern Bear shut up in his domains. It is incredible that he will oppose his fleets to certain destruction by facing his enemy in the Baltic; and it remains to be seen either what can be effected by Saxon energy, or how long the Muscovite barbarian will endure the presence of his uninvited guests.

The bombardment of Odessa seems to have been in revenge for the Russian batteries having fired upon a flag of truce. Speaking of this feat of arms the *Dublin Nation* says:—"As for the much-vaunted bombardment of Odessa, its only historical parallel seems to be the achievement of that illustrious French monarch who—

"With twenty thousand men,

Marched up the hill; and then—marched down again." Dundas and Hamelin assailed Odessa on the 22nd of April, according to the despatches. On the 23rd, they suspended hostilities and summoned the city to surrender, threatening to renew the attack next day.—Our latest accounts represent them as sailing away on the 26th, leaving the wealthy burghers of Odessa undisturbed."

The town of Odessa was founded by Catherine II., after she had extended her dominions, in 1792, to the banks of the Dniester, and in sixty years it has become the emporium of the trade of Southern Russia. Its population, exclusive of the garrison, exceeds 70,000, and the total amount of its export and import trade was valued in 1849 at about £4,500,000. The town is built on cliffs, which rise to a considerable height above the sea, and form a sort of amphitheatre round the bay. It is fortified according to the modern principles of defence, and the citadel, on the east side of the town, commands the port. The port itself is formed by two large moles, one of which is regularly defended by a parapet, with embrasures for cannon. The anchorage in the bay is good, and the water so deep that vessels of the first class may lie within reach of the shore.

**THE RUSSIAN NAVY.**—A writer in *Fraser's Magazine* gives the following as an authentic summary of the effective naval strength of Russia in the Baltic and Black Seas:—

	Baltic.	Black Sea.	Total.
Ships of the Line, ...	20	15	45
Frigates, ...	3	6	9
Brigs, &c., ...	6	6	12
Steamers, ...	8	8	16
General Total, ...	37	35	72

**THE ARMY OF RUSSIA.**—The *Constitutional* says: One of the pretensions of Russia is to possess an effective military force of at least 800,000 men, and according to some official returns, would even reach the figure of 1,200,000 men. It can be easily conceived with what idea the Russian government puts into circulation such figures. But if history be considered, it will be at once seen that this force never existed except on paper. At the period when Russia was attacked in her own territory, when her nationality was at stake in 1812, she had scarcely 200,000 men on foot. In 1813 she had great difficulty in sending 150,000 men into Germany; and in 1815 all the Russian troops that had passed the Rhine, concentrated at the Camp of Vertus only gave 120,000 men. It is, therefore, only under the force of the gravest circumstances that Russia, for the last half century, succeeded in once getting into the field 200,000 men; and even then, as we have said, it was when she was attacked in the very heart of her territory. In her enterprises abroad, she has never disposed of more than 150,000 men. That is about the number, we believe, of the army charged to act in Turkey, and to meet events on the shores of the Black Sea; and as Russia has to defend herself beyond the Caucasus and on the Baltic at the same time that she is obliged to augment her forces in Poland, we doubt that the army of the Danube cannot easily repair its losses.—Let no one consequently be deceived by the exaggeration of a government which is colossal only in the extent of its territory, and which is on that very account obliged to scatter its forces on various points to resist powers which dispose of the sea.

The taking of Cronstadt, if Cronstadt be not impregnable, would inflict a blow on the Russian Empire more terrible than the loss of ten provinces, since it would thereby lose its navy. St. Petersburg would soon find itself besieged at the entrance of the Neva, and bombarded by a flotilla which would be supported by the fleet in the possession of Cronstadt. This danger, is not, perhaps, imaginary. It is for this reason that the Russian Government has collected together round that port the most formidable means of defence. Peter the Great, in founding his capital, also founded Cronstadt, in which his genius must be admired; for it must be seen that without Cronstadt Petersburg the Superb with its eight feet of water, would only be a small coasting port, that might be blockaded and bombarded by gunboats.

Oriental coins have lately been found in abundance in Russia and the Scandinavian countries bordering upon the Baltic, thus affording strong evidence of former extensive commerce between Asia and these

northern countries. In Sweden, and more especially in the Island of Gothland, so great was the quantity of these Arabian coins found at different times that upwards of twenty thousand divers pieces of money all of which have been coined in different cities or towns subject to the authority of the Mahometan caliphs. With these coins there have been found numerous rich ornaments, consisting of rings and other silver articles, distinguished by a peculiar oriental workmanship.

**PRIVATEERING.**—The savage business—the destruction or confiscation of private property in war—has, we trust, received its death-blow. England and France have both decided not to issue letters of marque to Americans; and it is believed that our Government has expressed to those powers its determination not to tolerate the fitting out of privateers within its jurisdiction to operate against the vessels of either of the belligerents. If this determination should be faithfully carried out, it will obviate the greatest danger which exists, of our being ultimately involved in the conflict. A few years ago the United States was at war with Mexico. Our commerce was floating on every sea, and if privateers had been fitted out in England and France, or either of them, with letters of marque from Mexico, the damage done to our commercial interest would have been immense. But during the whole of that war not a single American merchantman was captured on the high seas. This shows that the English and French governments afford no countenance to such acts of robbery—say, that they exerted their influence to prevent them. The United States now has an opportunity to return the compliment. By all means let her do so, not merely because it is a just reciprocity, but because it is right in itself, and its opposite is wrong. A convention between the United States and England and France is probably under negotiation at this moment, which will henceforth prevent privateering, and will also establish, by mutual consent, the principal long contended for by the United States, that neutral ships make free goods, except contraband of war. The admission of this principle on the part of the belligerents will create an immense demand for our vessels during the war, both steamers and sailing vessels. For all freights and passengers, it will give our vessels a decided preference over English, French, Russian and, in fact, over the vessels of any other nation. We hope our people, as well as our government, will have the wisdom to use their privileges without abusing them. We must expect some annoyances here and there, growing out of the war; but if we are patient and forbearing, even under provocations (which we can well afford to be), they will not harm us. As lookers-on, and perhaps ultimately as an umpire between the belligerents, the United States has its proper work to perform, and we trust will not be found wanting.—*New York Journal of Commerce*.

The *Dublin Weekly Telegraph* defines the term "Swaddler," as commonly applied to the ranting hy-po-crites of the "Priests Protection Society."

The word "Swaddler" is applied in Ireland to the Wesleyan Methodists peculiarly; but it is sometimes extended to the other sects of Protestants, or rather to individuals of other sects, when they publicly give the proof that they are tainted with the evil habits of the Swaddlers—that is, of the followers of John Wesley; thus a clergyman of the Established religion, who renders himself odious by propagating lies and slanders against the Catholics, is called a Swaddling Parson; and we have known of Presbyterians, but not many, being designated Swaddling Presbyterians.

Of all the Protestant sects in Ireland, the most odious to the Catholics are the Methodists; because, from the day they were first founded, they have ever proved themselves to be consistent, at least, to one of the principles laid down by their heresiarch, John Wesley—that is in calumniating and persecuting the Catholics.

Of Wesley, the primo Swaddler, it is sufficient to say this much, to show his inconsistency and his intolerance, that in vol. xxii. of his works, p. 38, he laid down this principle in his tract, "Beauties of Melchisedech."

"Religious liberty is a liberty to choose our own religion, to worship God according to our own consciences, according to the best light we have. Every man living, as man, has a right to this, as he is a rational creature."

This was what Wesley maintained for himself and his followers; but this rule he would not permit to be applied to the Catholics. On the contrary, when a remission of the Penal Laws against Catholics occurred in England, in 1778, Wesley took a leading part in stirring up the bigotry and exciting the fanaticism of the ignorant English and misinstructed Scotch—he circulated the most atrocious calumnies against the Catholics—incited the persecutors to associate themselves together in what was called "the Protestant Association," for the purpose of having the Penal Laws renewed; and in one of his publications, a letter, dated "City Road, January 12, 1780," he put forward the following atrocious and abominable sentiments:—

"Suppose every word of Pope Pius's creed to be true—suppose the Council of Trent to have been infallible—yet I insist upon it, that no Government, not Roman Catholic, ought to tolerate men of the Roman Catholic persuasion."

Again, in the same letter, he says of the Catholics— "They ought not to be tolerated by any Government, Protestant, Mahometan, or Pagan."

The date of John Wesley's letter, it will be perceived, was January 12, 1780. Its sentiments were responded to and acted upon in a very few months; for on the 2nd of June, 1780, the "Protestant Association," in whose defence this inconsistent individual had been writing, marched from the well-known Methodist meeting ground at Kennington Common (see *Notes and Queries*, April 22nd, 1854), to commence its work of pillage and incendiarism in London—burning Catholic chapels, robbing the houses of Catholics, and causing no less than thirty-six fires to be blazing at one time—all of Catholic chapels, or houses of Catholics, or the houses of those supposed to be friendly to Catholics—whilst the misdeeds of Wesleyan thieves and villains of London were imitated in Hull, Bristol, Bath, and other places.

As to the Catholics of Ireland, they have always made a great distinction between the Wesleyan Methodists and other sects of Protestants, and for very plain and obvious reasons. The Catholics, when oppressed by Penal Laws, found on many an occasion